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# Millom Urban District Council.

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## Millom Urban Sanitary District.

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### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1913.

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**The District** contains 1463 acres, and lies between high hills and the estuary of the River Duddon, and is about one mile on its outer side from the sea, into which the drainage is carried. The soil is clay, with a good subsoil of sand and gravel.

The great majority of the inhabitants are Iron Ore Miners and Blast Furnacemen; the house accommodation is ample. The houses are mostly well built of stone or brick, with large back yards, ensuring ample ventilation, dampness being the great trouble, as many are built on land but slightly above sea level.

There are 90 persons and 10 boarding-out children receiving relief under the Poor Law.

**The Free Dispensary** for the Treatment and Prevention of Consumption, which was opened in April, 1911, by the Millom Urban District Council, and the Isolation Hospital, which is free to all in the District, are the only form of gratuitous medical treatment.



**Water Supply** is from a reservoir on the slope of Black Combe, about six miles distant, and brought to every part of the District by iron pipes. It is pure, except for some earthy matter, and of ample quantity. I understand the Council have lately bought the farm from which the greatest part of our water supply is drawn. This will be of the greatest possible benefit, as now the only possible source of contamination will be in their own lands, and will no doubt in time be so arranged that all possibility of harm will be removed. No water is now used for drinking purposes except from the Council's mains.

**Rivers and Streams.**—The only stream in the District is not polluted in any way, and is not used for domestic purposes.

**Drainage and Sewerage** is complete in all parts of the District, and is carried into the Estuary of the Duddon below the low tide mark. The sewers are flushed regularly.

**Closet Accommodation.**—Water Closets are used all over the District, a small cistern is used, which is self-filling.

**Scavenging.**—There are no earth-closets, privies, or cesspools. House Refuse is removed by the Council's men, and is very satisfactory. The removals for the year were 26,735.

**Sanitary Inspection of the District.**—With the Sanitary Inspector I have visited 334 houses during the year under the "Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909," and also 75 houses where Scarlet Fever or other infectious disease was reported. Only a few defects were found, and those of a trivial nature, being attended to at once.

- 9 Yard Drains cleared or repaired.
- 14 Water Closets cleared and repaired.
- 6 Yards paved and re-laid.
- 6 Slopstone Waste Pipes lengthened.
- 4 New Gullies substituted for defective ones.
- 1 Cellar Drain cleared.



No new houses have been certified during the year. The total number of houses in the District, including Schools and Lock-up Shops, etc., is 2,085, the number available for separate tenements, 1986, as taken from the rate book.

Ten Slaughter-Houses, three Common Lodging-Houses, thirteen Bake Houses, and ten Workrooms under the Factory and Workshops Act, have been visited and found satisfactory. There are no cellar dwellings or offensive trades in the District.

**Schools : Public Elementary.**—The sanitary condition is good, the water supply plentiful, and from the Council's mains. The schools were closed for some weeks owing to an outbreak of measles. All the schools have been fumigated during each holiday. The School Attendance Officer receives early notice of all cases of infectious disease.

**Food : Milk Supply.**—Most of the milk comes from outside the District. 13 samples were examined, all genuine. The cowsheds within the district were inspected, and were the same as last year. There are thirteen Purveyors of milk in the District.

**Other Foods.**—The following were sent to the Public Analyst and reported as up to standard : 1 Coffee, 3 Whisky, all genuine.

The Sanitary Condition of the Butchers' Shops was good. All slaughter-houses were inspected and found satisfactory, but only two or three would now be allowed, as they are too near inhabited houses. They have all receptacles with close-shutting lids for the temporary reception of offal, which are removed once a week in winter and twice a week in summer.

**Housing.**—The number of houses are more than sufficient, as there are over 200 empty. There is no overcrowding, and there is plenty of air space, the yards are good, both back and front streets being wide and clean. Plans of new buildings have to be passed by the Highways Committee.



**Sanitary Administration of the District.** — The Sanitary Inspector has accompanied me in my house-to-house visitation, and has fumigated each house where any infectious disease was reported, including deaths from Tuberculosis, and served each notice as was required to remove or abate nuisances.

**A Female Health Visitor** was appointed in July to devote her whole time to the work, and to enquire into each case of Infectious Disease.

**Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Disease.**—All cases of infectious disease are visited, and the patients removed to the Isolation Hospital, the premises at once disinfected, and the bedding, etc., if necessary, sent to the Steam Disinfector, an early notice is sent to the house, warning the inmates of the danger of mixing with others in the street or school, and a notice is sent to the Librarian and the School Attendance Officer, who sends me notice of any children absent from school owing to any infectious disease, this I find very helpful. Every effort is made to trace the source of infection, by enquiries as to the Milk Supply, School Attendance, etc. The Steam Disinfector was used three times during the year.

**Scarlet Fever.**—We have had 20 cases this year, all removed to the Isolation Hospital. The source could not be traced to water or milk supply. In my opinion, the spread of Scarlet Fever is in a great measure due to carelessness on the part of parents in visiting their friends and neighbours with the disease in their homes, and allowing their children to mix with others before disinfection, in spite of printed warnings issued.

**Diphtheria.**—17 cases were reported and all removed to the Hospital, with two deaths.

**Erysipelas.**—Four cases. When the premises were visited no sanitary defects were found.



**Enteric Fever.**— Eight cases, seven removed to the Hospital, one death. The first case was not recognised till a few hours before death, and I think all the other cases were from it. This case originated, I believe, from clams taken from the sea shore, near the sewerage outlet.

**Diarrhœa and Enteritis.**— Two deaths, one a child under one year of age, one 65. There was no special prevalence of Diarrhœa amongst children.

**Measles.**— A great many cases, with 8 deaths.

**Whooping Cough.**— Two deaths.

**Influenza.**— Two deaths.

**Infant Mortality.**— 24 deaths, 4 more than last year; Diarrhœa and Enteritis 1, Tubercular Disease 5, Premature Birth 1, Pneumonia 2, Measles 1, Scarlet Fever 1, Convulsions 4, Gastritis 2, Debility 3, Other Causes 4.

**Cancer.**— Five deaths.


**Puerperal Fever.**— No deaths.

**Tuberculosis.**— 33 cases of Tuberculosis were reported during the year; 16 of these attended the Dispensary; 17 did not attend. Their houses, clothes, etc., were disinfected as in other infectious disease. Two deaths occurred amongst Dispensary patients.

There were 11 deaths from Phthisis, 2 Tubercular Meningitis, 6 other Tuberculous Disease. 8 of these deaths were not reported by the doctor in charge of the case.

**Smallpox.**— No cases. Notice of any case appearing in the weekly summary in or near a port is sent by first post to both Harbour Masters, who pass it on to the Custom House Officer.

**Free Dispensary.**— The Dispensary has now been at work for two years and nine months, and the following tables will show the work done and its value. Out of 61 patients who have attended regularly, 52 show improvement,



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while 9 are in statu quo., 55 have gained weight, only 7 having lost. I think this must convince anyone of the value of the Dispensary. If these 61 patients had not received attention, probably two-thirds would now be going downhill, and certainly some would be dead or past cure. 3 deaths.

Patients attending Free Dispensary from April 1st, 1911, to December 31st, 1913 :—

- Class I. Quite early cases.
- Class II. Moderately advanced, but with good chance that arrest of the disease will follow sufficient treatment.
- Class III. More advanced, but not hopeless cases.
- Class IV. Cases where, at best, only temporary benefit may be expected.

	No. of				Much			In Statu		Gained		Lost	
	Cases.	Arrested.	Improved.	Improved.	Quo.	Weight.	Weight.	Total					
Class I. ...	13	... 12	... 1	... -	... -	... 13	... -	... 13					
Class II. ...	39	... —	.. 15	... 8	... 16	... 38	... 1	... 39					
Class III. ...	5	... —	.. —	... 1	... 4	... 2	... 3	... 5					
Class IV. ...	4	... —	... -	... -	... 4	... 1	... 3	... 4					
Attendance, nil or													
Irregular ...	18	... —	... —	... -	... -	... —	... -	... 18					
Left the town	28	... —	... —	... -	... -	... —	... -	... 28					
	107	... 12	... 16	... 9	... 24	... 54	... 7	... 107					

During the year ending December 31st, there was a total of 577 attendances at the Free Dispensary, including new cases, 16.

By the Health Visitor 1504 visits were paid to the homes of patients where she saw that the instructions given at the Dispensary were carried out, and generally advised and encouraged the patients and friends.

3 cases have been treated with Tuberculin.



**Midwives Act.**— This act is administered by the County. The inspection of Midwives has been taken out of the hands of the Medical Officer of Health, and is now done by a Nurse from Carlisle, the other end of the County.

**Isolation Hospital** is still being worked under the same conditions as appeared in my report last year. The hospital has been occupied during the whole year with the exception of one fortnight at the end of the year. 20 Scarlet Fever from the Urban District and 1 from the Rural District. Total, 21. 7 Enteric from the Urban District, 2 from Rural District, and 17 Diphtheria from the Urban District, 1 from the Rural District. Total, 18.

Two deaths from Diphtheria, 48 hours after admission.

**Births,** 175, or 20.27 per 1,000.

**Deaths,** 133, or 15.44 per 1,000, 24 under one year, 4 from 1—2 years, 6 from 2—5, 9 from 5—15, 4 from 15—25, 22 from 25—45, 31 from 45—65, 33 from 65 and upwards.

Reports have been made to the Health Committee every four weeks during the year, shewing Births and Deaths and percentages of the same, the infectious cases reported, and the working of the isolation hospital and the Free Dispensary. I have attended all meetings, special or otherwise, when asked to do so.

I enclose herewith the usual table of statistics.

PERCY B. STONEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

31st January, 1914.

